

# **100 YEARS OF *LYNCHINGS***



**Ralph Ginzburg**

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## **FOREWORD**

What lies at the root of race hatred? After spending several years with the subject, I hold with psychologists that it is unconscious guilt feelings on the part of the race-hater. The person who hates Negroes usually hates other people beside Negroes. He's almost a professional hater. If he's poor, he hates the rich. If he's rich he hates the poor. If he's a Democrat, he hates the Republicans. If he's a Protestant or a Jew, he hates the Catholics. The reason is that the race-hater is inwardly a man who hates himself. He finds it necessary to shift to others his own unconscious feelings of guilt. Hence he chooses as his victim a member of a minority group who is less able to defend himself than the average person. To his victim he unconsciously shifts his own shortcomings and guilt-laden desires. Jews, he says, are deceitful and money-mad; Negroes, he says, are slothful and sex-mad. A perfect example of such "projection," to use the psychological term, is found in the New York Herald Tribune dispatch of February 9, 1936, contained in this book, which tells of the mob hanging of a Negro, allegedly for attempted rape. The leader of the mob, it later turns out, is convicted for the very same offense he ascribed to the Negro.

I shall not discourse upon the horror of the white man's treatment of the black man in American history. The facts in this book speak too eloquently for themselves. I shall only say that I hope the publication of this book, in this Centennial of the Civil War, will give pause to segregationists everywhere to reflect upon their continued persecution of the black man.

A few technical points: Many of the press accounts contained in this book appear verbatim as originally published. Others have been drastically rewritten for the sake of clarity or conciseness. In a number of cases where two or more newspapers contained conflicting reports of a given incident, the several reports have been reprinted. In cases where two or more newspapers contained different—but not conflicting—information, the information from all sources has been synthesized into

one story and attributed to the newspaper which provided most of the facts. In no case have facts, as reported in the press, been altered.

Ralph Ginzburg

**There's a great time coming  
And it's not far off,  
Been long, long, long on the way.**

**—from the song "Wake Nicodemus"  
written during the Civil War  
by the Negro Composer Henry Clay Work.**

## **NEW YORK TRUTH SEEKER**

April 17, 1880

### **FIRST NEGRO AT WEST POINT KNIFED BY FELLOW CADETS**

**WEST POINT, N.Y., Apr. 15**—James Webster Smith, the first colored cadet in the history of West Point, was recently taken from his bed, gagged, bound, and severely beaten, and then his ears were slit. He says that he cannot identify his assailants. The other cadets claim that he did it himself.

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### **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

November 22, 1895

### **TEXANS LYNCH WRONG NEGRO**

**MADISONVILLE, Tex., Nov. 21**—News has been received here of the lynching of a Negro in this part of Madison County on Tuesday night. He was accused of riding his horse over a little white girl and injuring her. On Wednesday it was discovered that the wrong Negro had been gotten hold of by the mob. The guilty one made his escape.

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### **EDITORIAL FROM THE SPRINGFIELD (MASSACHUSETTS) WEEKLY REPUBLICAN**

January 19, 1896

### **WHITE SUPERIORITY IN FLORIDA**

The noble and valiant Anglo-Saxons of Manatee county, Fla., are engaged just now in demonstrating the superiority of the race. Some days ago the son of the county sheriff and the son of a poor negro quarreled and the black was the victor in a boys' fight. Thereupon the sheriff and a number of brave whites, fully armed, went

to the negro's cabin at night and demanded that the boy be handed over to them. Knowing what would be his probable fate, the negro refused to surrender his son. On the contrary he seized a gun and when the white mob fired upon the house he returned the fire and killed the sheriff. Then the whites in a rage picked up a log and rushed upon the cabin door to batter it in, and another shot from the negro's gun killed another white man and fatally wounded a third. The mob retreated for reinforcements, and the negro took his boy and gun and made off for the swamps. At last accounts he had not been captured and tortured to death, but in lieu of this the noble and manly whites were going about the country firing into the cabins of innocent and defenseless blacks, burning up the homes of some, killing others, and ordering a general exodus of negroes, threatening a boycott on employers of labor who would not discharge their negro help.

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## KISSIMMEE VALLEY (FLORIDA) GAZETTE

April 28, 1899

### SAM HOLT BURNED AT STAKE

Sam Holt, the negro who is thought to have murdered Alfred Cranford and assailed Cranford's wife, was burned at the stake one mile and a quarter from Newnan, Ga., Sunday afternoon, July 23rd, at 2:80 o'clock. Fully 2,000 people surrounded the small sapling to which he was fastened and watched the flames eat away his flesh, saw his body mutilated by knives and witnessed the contortions of his body in his extreme agony.

Two counties, Campbell and Coweta, directly interested in the crimes of the negro, and the entire state have waited with impatience for the moment when the negro would pay the penalty for his fiendish deeds. Such suffering has seldom been witnessed, and through it all the negro uttered hardly a cry. Those who witnessed the affair saw the negro meet his death and saw him tortured before the flames with unfeigning satisfaction.

For sickening sights, harrowing details and blood-curdling incidents, the burning of Holt is unsurpassed by

any occurrence of a like kind ever heard of in the history of Georgia. A few smouldering ashes scattered about the place, a blackened stake, are all that was left to tell the story. Not even the bones of the negro were left in peace, but were eagerly snatched by a crowd of people drawn from all directions, who almost fought over the burning body of the man, carving it with their knives and seeking souvenirs of the occurrence.

Holt went to the stake with as much courage as any one could possibly have possessed on such an occasion, and the only murmur that issued from his lips was when angry knives plunged into his flesh and his life's blood sizzled in the fire before his eyes.

Then he cried, "Oh, my God! Oh, Jesus."

The crowd that burned Holt believed it had made no mistake of his guilt or identity. After the first flames licked at his feet, he was temporarily removed from the sapling at which time he is said to have admitted his guilt.

One of the strangest features of the entire affair is the part played in the execution by a northern man. This man, whose name would not be divulged by those who knew him, announced that he was from the north, while he calmly saturated Holt's clothing with kerosene oil.

Mrs. Cranford, the rape victim, was not permitted to identify the negro. She is ill and it was thought the shock would be too great for her. The crowd was satisfied with the identification of Holt by Mrs. Cranford's mother who did not, however, actually see Holt commit the crime.

Masks played no part of the lynching. There was no secrecy; no effort to prevent anyone seeing who lighted the fire, who cut off the ears or who took the head. On the trunk of a tree nearby was pinned the following placard:

"We Must Protect Our Southern Women."

**SPRINGFIELD (MASSACHUSETTS)  
WEEKLY REPUBLICAN**

April 28, 1899

**NEGRO BURNED ALIVE IN FLORIDA;  
SECOND NEGRO THEN HANGED**

**NEWMAN, Ga., Apr. 23**—Sam Holt, the murderer of Alfred Cranford and the ravisher of the latter's wife, was burned at the stake, near Newnan, Ga., this afternoon, in the presence of 2000 people. The black man was first tortured before being covered with oil and burned. An ex-governor of Georgia made a personal appeal to his townspeople to let the law take its course, but without the slightest avail.

Before the torch was applied to the pyre, the negro was deprived of his ears, fingers and genital parts of his body. He pleaded pitifully for his life while the mutilation was going on, but stood the ordeal of fire with surprising fortitude. Before the body was cool, it was cut to pieces, the bones were crushed into small bits, and even the tree upon which the wretch met his fate was torn up and disposed of as "souvenirs." The negro's heart was cut into several pieces, as was also his liver. Those unable to obtain the ghastly relics direct paid their more fortunate possessors extravagant sums for them. Small pieces of bones went for 25 cents, and a bit of the liver crisply cooked sold for 10 cents. As soon as the negro was seen to be dead there was a tremendous struggle among the crowd, which had witnessed his tragic end, to secure the souvenirs. A rush was made for the stake, and those near the body were forced against it and had to fight for their freedom. Knives were quickly produced and soon the body was dismembered.

One of the men who lifted the can of kerosene to the negro's head is said to be a native of Pennsylvania. His name is known to those who were with him, but they refuse to divulge it. The mob was composed of citizens of Newnan, Griffin, Palmetto and other little towns in the country round about Newnan, and of all the farmers who had received word that the burning was to take place.

W. Y. Atkinson, a former governor of Georgia, met the

mob as he was returning from church and he appealed to them to let the law take its course. In addressing the mob he used these words: "Some of you are known to me and when this affair is finally settled in the courts, you may depend upon it that I will testify against you." A member of the mob was seen to draw a revolver and level it at Mr. Atkinson, but his arm was seized and the pistol taken from him. The mob was frantic with delays and would hear to nothing but burning at the stake.

Before being put to death, the negro is said to have confessed to killing Cranford, stating that he had been paid \$20 by "Lige" Strickland, a negro preacher at Palmetto, for the deed.

Holt was located in the little cabin of his mother on the farm of the Jones brothers between Macon and Columbus and brought to jail.

Word was sent to Mrs. Cranford at Palmetto that it was believed Holt was under arrest and that her presence was necessary in Newnan to make sure of his identification. In some way the news of the arrest leaked out, and as the town has been on the alert for nearly two weeks, the intelligence spread rapidly.

From every house in the little city came its occupants, and a good-sized crowd had soon gathered about the jail. Sheriff Brown was importuned to give up the prisoner, and finally in order to avoid an assault on the jail and possible bloodshed, he turned the negro over to the waiting crowd.

A procession was quickly formed and the doomed negro was marched at the head of a yelling, shouting crowd through several streets of the town. Soon the public square was reached. Here ex-Gov. Atkinson of Georgia, who lives in Newnan, came hurriedly upon the scene, and standing up in a buggy importuned the crowd to let the law take its course.

Gov Atkinson said: "My fellow citizens and friends: I beseech you to let this affair go no further. You are hurrying this negro on to death without an identification. Mrs Cranford, whom he is said to have assaulted and whose husband he is said to have killed, is sick in bed and unable to be here to say whether this is her assailant. Let this negro be returned to jail. The law will take its course, and I promise you it will do so quickly

and effectually. Do not stain the honor of the state with a crime such as you are about to perform." Judge A. D. Freeman of Newnan spoke in a similar strain and prayed the mob to return the prisoner to the custody of the sheriff and go home. The assemblage heard the words of the two speakers in silence, but the instant their voices had died away shouts of "On to Palmetto, burn him, think of his crime," arose, and the march was resumed.

Mrs Cranford's mother and sister are residents of Newnan. The mob was headed in the direction of their house and in a short time reached the McElroy home. The negro was marched through the gate and Mrs McElroy was called to the front door. She identified the African, and her verdict was agreed to by her daughter, who had often seen Holt about the Cranford place. "To the stake," was again the cry and several men wanted to burn the negro in Mrs McElroy's yard. To this she objected strenuously, and the mob, complying with her wish, started for Palmetto. Just as they were leaving Newnan news was brought that the 1 o'clock train from Atlanta would bring 1000 people from Atlanta. This was taken to be a regiment of soldiers, and the mob decided to burn the prisoner at the first favorable place rather than be compelled to shoot him when the militia put in an appearance.

Leaving the little town, whose Sunday quiet had been so rudely disturbed, the mob, which now numbered nearly 1500 people, started on the road to Palmetto. A line of buggies and vehicles of all kinds, their drivers fighting for position in line, followed the procession, at the head of which, closely guarded, marched the negro. One and a half miles out of Newnan, a place believed to be favorable to the burning, was reached. A little to the side of the road was a strong pine tree. Up to this the negro was marched, his back placed to the tree and his face to the crowd, which jostled closely about him.

The clothes were torn from the negro in an instant. A heavy chain was produced and wound around his body. He said not a word to this proceeding, but at the sight of three or four knives slashing in the hands of several members of the crowd about him, which seemed to forecast the terrible ordeal he was about to be put to, he sent

up a yell which could be heard for a mile. Instantly a hand grasping a knife shot out and one of the negro's ears dropped into a hand ready to receive it. He pleaded pitifully for mercy and begged his tormentors let him die. His cries went unheeded.

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PALMETTO, Ga., Apr. 24—The body of "Lige" Strickland, a negro preacher, who was implicated in the Cranford murder by "Sam" Holt, was found swinging to the limb of a persimmon tree within a mile and a quarter of Palmetto, Ga., early today. Before death was allowed to end the sufferings of the negro, his ears were cut off and the small finger of his left hand was severed at the second joint. These trophies were in Palmetto yesterday. On the chest of the negro was a piece of blood-stained paper, attached by an ordinary pin. On one side of this paper was written:—

—We must protect our ladies.

The other side of the paper contained a warning to the negroes of the neighborhood. It read as follows:—

Beware all darkies! You will be treated the same way.

Before being lynched, Strickland was given a chance to confess to the misdeeds of which the mob supposed him to be guilty, but he protested his innocence to the last. Three times the noose was placed around his neck and the negro was drawn up off the ground; three times he was let down with a warning that death was in store for him, should he fail to confess his complicity in the Cranford murder. Three times Strickland proclaimed his innocence, until weary of useless torturing, the mob pulled on the rope and tied the end around the slender trunk of the persimmon tree. Not a shot was fired. Strickland was strangled to death.

The lynching of "Lige" Strickland was not accomplished without a desperate effort on the part of his employer to save his life. The man who pleaded for him is Maj W. W. Thomas, an ex-state senator, and one of the most distinguished citizens of Coweta county. He did all in his power to prevent the lynching of the negro and did not discontinue his efforts until he had been assured by the leaders of the mob that the negro would be taken to jail at Fairburn. One mile from the spot where this promise was made, Strickland was hanged. The negro was a

tenant on the plantation of Maj Thomas. When "Sam" Holt, the murderer of Alfred Cranford and the assailant of his wife, made his confession immediately prior to his burning, he implicated "Lije" Strickland, Holt contending that he had been offered money by Strickland to kill Cranford. It was known positively, however, that Holt had made false statements in his last confession, and many of those who aided in his burning were disposed to disregard his statement in regard to Strickland.

About 15 men went to the plantation of Maj Thomas late Sunday night and took Strickland from his little cabin in the wood, and left his wife and five children to wait and weep over the fate they knew was in store for the negro. Their cries aroused Maj Thomas, and that sturdy old man followed the lynchers in his buggy, accompanied by his son, William Thomas, determined to save, if possible, the life of his plantation darkey. They overtook the lynchers with their victim at Palmetto, and then ensued, with only the moonlight to brighten the faces of these grim men, a weird and dramatic scene. Lije Strickland was halted directly opposite the telegraph office. The noose was adjusted around his neck and the end of the rope was thrown over a tree. Strickland was told he had a chance before dying to confess his complicity in the crime. He replied: "I have told you all I know, gentlemen. You can kill me if you wish, but I know nothing to tell."

The negro's life might have been ended then, but for the arrival of Maj Thomas, who leaped from his buggy and asked for a hearing. He asked the crowd to give the negro a chance for his life, and said: "Gentleman, this negro is innocent. Holt said Lije had promised to give him \$20 to kill Alfred Cranford, and I don't believe Lije had \$20 since he has been on my place. He has never done any of you any harm; I want you to promise me that you will turn him over to the bailiff of this town that he may be given a hearing. I do not ask you to liberate him. Hold him for the courts." The mob replied that Strickland had inflamed the negroes in the neighborhood and had a bad reputation, having run away from Eastpoint several years ago. Maj Thomas reminded the mob that the negro had voluntarily told of having seen Holt on the night of the murder. One of the mob replied

that Strickland had done this in the cunningness of his guilt to establish his own innocence.

There were some, however, who agreed with Maj Thomas, and after a discussion, a vote was taken, which was supposed to mean life or death to Lije Strickland. The vote to let him live was unanimous. Maj Thomas then retired some distance, and the mob was preparing to send Strickland in a wagon to Newnan, when a member of the mob cried out: "We have got him here, let's keep him." This aroused the mob and a messenger was sent to advise Maj Thomas to leave Palmetto for his own good, but the old man was not frightened. He drew himself up and said emphatically: "I have never before been ordered to leave a town, and I am not going to leave this one." And then the major, uplifting his hand to give his words force, said to the messenger: "Tell them the muscles in my legs are not trained to running; tell them I have stood the fire and heard the whistle of minis from a thousand Yankee rifles, and I am not frightened by this crowd." Maj Thomas was not molested. Then, with the understanding that Lije Strickland was to be delivered to the jailer at Fairburn, Maj Thomas saw the negro he had pleaded for led off to his death.

The mob took the negro to a grove near the home of Marshall Givens of Palmetto, and again the noose was adjusted. He was hauled off the ground, but was let down to allow him to confess. He refused to do so, and the lynchers were about to haul him up again when the son of Marshall Givens came upon the scene, and asked that the lynching should not occur near his father's home. The negro was then taken to the yard in the rear of Dr W. S. Zeller's home, and tied up to a persimmon tree and left hanging. A coroner's jury held an inquest over the body Monday afternoon and returned the usual verdict—death at the hands of parties unknown. Another mob is hunting the county for Albert Sewell, who has made himself obnoxious by remarks concerning the treatment given the negroes by the whites. There is not much prospect of his capture however, as he has had a day's start of his pursuers.

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ATLANTA, Ga., Apr. 24—The Atlanta Constitution said this morning: "The terrible expiation which Sam

Holt was forced to pay for his crime will arouse a flood of discussion carried on by those who know the facts in the near side and those who do not care for facts on the other. But while the form of this criminal's punishment cannot be upheld, let those who are disposed to criticise it look into the facts, and by these facts temper the judgment they may render.

"An unassuming, industrious and hard working farmer, after his day's toil, sat at his evening meal. Around him sat wife and children, happy in the presence of the man who was fulfilling to them every duty imposed by nature. At peace with the world, serving God and loyal to humanity, they looked forward to the coming day. Noiselessly the murderer with uplifted ax advanced from the rear and sank it to the hilt in the brain of the unsuspecting victim. Tearing the child from the mother's breast, he flung it into the pool of blood oozing from its father's wound. Then began the culmination, which has dethroned the reason of the people of western Georgia during the past week. As critics will howl about the lynching, the Constitution will be pardoned for stating the plain facts. The wife was seized, choked, thrown upon the floor, where her clothing lay in the blood of her husband, and ravished.

"Remember the fact. Remember the dark night in the country home. Remember the slain husband, and, above all, remember that shocking degradation which was inflicted by the black beast, his victim, swimming in her husband's warm blood as the brute held her to the floor. Keep the facts in mind. When the picture is painted of the ravisher in flames, go back and view that darker picture of Mrs Cranford outraged in the blood of her murdered husband."

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ATLANTA, Ga., Apr. 24—Gov Candler of Georgia Sunday night gave the Associated Press the following statement on the burning of Sam Holt, near Newman: "The whole thing is deplorable, and Holt's crime, the horrible details of which have been published and are too horrible for publication, is the most diabolical in the annals of crime. The negroes of the community lost the best opportunity they will ever have to elevate themselves in the estimation of their white neighbors.

"But they lost the opportunity, and it is a deplorable fact that, while scores of intelligent negroes, leaders of their race, have talked to me about the Palmetto lynching, not one of them has ever in the remotest way alluded to the diabolical crime of Holt which provoked the lynching. I do not believe these men sympathized with Holt but they can see but one side of the question and are blinded by race prejudices."

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## EDITORIAL FROM THE SPRINGFIELD (MASSACHUSETTS) WEEKLY REPUBLICAN

April 28, 1899

### THE GEORGIA EXHIBITION

The annals of the savage will be searched in vain for anything worse than the exhibition given to the world by the white civilization of the state of Georgia. The best that the devilish ingenuity of man has ever been able to do, in any age or among any people, to make the ordeal of death as excruciating and awful as it could possibly be made, was equaled in the torture and mutilation and burning of the negro Holt; and if any large company of human beings at any stage in the development of the race ever gave greater evidences of joy, in such a spectacle or rushed with greater eagerness to secure mementoes of the fearful tragedy in the form of pieces of the burned flesh and bits of the charred bones, history makes no record of the fact.

The nation and the whole civilized world must stand aghast at the revelation. A civilized community numbering thousands, at the drop of a hat, throws off the restraints and effects of many centuries of progress and stands forth in the naked savagery of the primitive man. Men and women cheer and express feelings of triumph and joy as the victim is hurried on to the stake to make a Sunday holiday in one of the most orthodox religious communities in the United States. They cut off his ears, his fingers and other members of the body, and strip him and pour oil upon him while the spectators crowd desperately for positions of advantage in the great work of

torture and death. As the flames rise about the victim the people watch the quiverings of the flesh and the writhings of the frame, and shout back descriptions to the jostling, cheering hundreds on the outskirts of the ring. The negro raises a cry of agony that can be heard far away, and in a supreme effort loosens the upper part of his body from the chain which binds him to the tree. The fire is deadened while he is being chained back, and the awful agony prolonged to the evident relish of the spectators. Then more oil and fire, and death at last comes to the man's release.

Meantime the news has spread of what is going on and hundreds leave Atlanta and other places by special train to see the fun. There is a rush upon what is left of the body and spectators cut off bits of the flesh, the liver and the bones as precious souvenirs of the day. The mob is now only fairly started on the hunt for vengeance and amusement. The victim, in the midst of the torture, gives the name of one alleged to be implicated in his crime. It may have been the suggestion of truth, or it may have been the false prompting of a desperate desire to save himself. Quite likely the latter. But the mob sets off after the negro Strickland. He is seized in the dead of night. His white employer says he believes the man is innocent. No matter, the appetite for blood is up and has not been satisfied. The negro is "tried" by mob oratory and condemned. He is strung up and let down once or twice by way of extorting a confession, and through it all he protests his innocence. His ears and fingers are cut off and the body is finally left dangling from a tree limb. The mob next sets out for a negro who had been heard to say his race should be avenged, and at last accounts it was still spreading terror and death among the blacks, while a similar mob in South Carolina has inaugurated a like campaign.

And this, fellow-citizens, is the quality of the civilization of which you and we boast. This is of the white civilization we would carry to the Orient and shoot into the hearts of the Malays if we cannot get it there otherwise. Is there to be found in the story of the Malay, treacherous and bloody as he is said to be in a state of nature, anything more savage and cowardly and devilish than this exhibition in one of the original states of the Ameri-

can Union? It is impossible that there could be! A brag-gart civilization is revealed which needs to look to itself and its home problems before venturing further on a world crusade.

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## BANGOR (MAINE) COMMERCIAL

September 5, 1899

### VISITING SOUTHERN REPORTER DESCRIBES LYNCHINGS SEEN

A veteran reporter on one of the Southern newspapers, who is now visiting this city, gives an interesting account of his experiences in "covering" lynching parties. "The news that there is to be a lynching," he begins, "spreads very rapidly in the south, especially in the small cities and towns. To the reporter it is a very disagreeable business to attend these lynchings, for he is usually not overcome by frenzy like the mob made up from the immediate neighborhood, and so cannot sympathize with its method of procedure. I have attended in my capacity as a reporter at least 12 lynchings, and on each of two of these occasions I have seen as many as three negroes lynched.

"The first time I saw a triple lynching I felt no doubt as to the victims' guilt. When arrested they confessed their crime and were placed upon a pile of railroad ties which had been put along the railroad track under the shade of some tall trees, and when the rope was ready the crowd pulled the ties out from under them. Before the victims were dead they were riddled with bullets from the pistols, which are always to be found with southern men on such occasions.

"This lynching did not impress me as half so horrible as one a short time afterwards in which an innocent man named John Peterson was the victim. He was charged with the usual crime at a place near Denmark, S. C.

"He hastily made his way to Columbia, S. C., as soon as he heard he was suspected, and surrendered himself to the penitentiary authorities there, saying that he was innocent and wanted their protection. When a warrant

for Peterson came from the authorities of Barnwell county, the governor surrendered him. It was known that the people in the neighborhood of Denmark were so excited that there would be little chance of the poor fellow's getting a fair trial. If he had been kept in the state penitentiary until things cooled off, the outcome would clearly have been different.

"Peterson was, however, taken back to Denmark by several officers, and the party was accompanied by representatives of all the newspapers. On arriving at the small village, we found a crowd of several hundred men and boys had assembled, and organized a mock court. It must be acknowledged that some of the leading men in the county were there. Testimony of various kinds was offered against the negro. None of it was very damaging except that of a woman of low character, who testified that she had seen Peterson quite near the place where the crime had been committed, and at the time.

"The crowd then took the prisoner to the home of the man whose daughter had been assaulted. She declined to identify him positively, saying that he looked like the man, but that she was not sure of him. After the crowd went back to town and placed Peterson in the lock-up, the father of the girl began to blame her severely for not fixing the crime upon the poor fellow. This man was so excited that he wanted to have the crime avenged at once, and was not particular as to who should pay the penalty. The girl was finally brought over to the point of saying that she felt sure Peterson was the guilty man. This was sufficient.

"The townspeople and those who had gathered to see the affair decided to lynch Peterson that night. The work was done so quickly after this conclusion was reached that most of the newspaper men did not know anything was going to happen until they heard the hammering of the axes on the door of the wooden lock-up. Peterson was seized and taken to a patch of pine woods not far from the home of the young woman.

It so happened that two railroad lines crossed near this point. On one of them a train bound for Augusta Ga., was due in a few minutes, and a goodly number of the men present wanted to board that train to go to their homes. There was also a great demand on the part of the

reporters to have the job done before the arrival of the train. The telegraph facilities in the little town were insufficient to accommodate all the newspapers, and the reporters preferred to take the train and go to their home offices and there write the story. The result was that one or two of the reporters took matters into their own hands and hurried them along as a piece of newspaper enterprise. The crowd was too slow. The reporters showed them how they ought to work. The execution took place in the regular way, hanging and shooting, and just at the moment the train arrived Peterson was dead and most of the crowd boarded the train. This was regarded as a well-arranged affair.

"I had opposed lynching, and with another man had freely expressed my opinion of the victim's innocence. We were waited on by an excited group who cautioned us to say nothing of that kind or short work would be made of us. On our way back that night on the train, for we took a second train on the line crossing the one first mentioned, we continued to express our opinions freely, with nothing more resulting than an exchange of threats. Some of the crowd returning from the lynching threatened to kill us and we threatened to kill them. The powder was finally saved on both sides. It was afterwards discovered that Peterson was entirely innocent. The guilty man was found in Georgia. He confessed his crime there, and was taken in charge of by a mob in that state."

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## KANSAS CITY (MISSOURI) STAR

October 31, 1899

### NEGRO SUSPECTED OF SLAYING BARTENDER IS HUNG BY MOB

WEIR CITY, Kas., Oct. 31—A lynching followed a murder here last night. Gus McArdle, a bartender in Berry Janes's joint, was shot and killed at half past 10 o'clock and a few hours later his supposed murderer, George Wells, a negro miner from Scammon, was swinging from the nearest telephone pole. A mob took him from jail.

Earlier in the evening McArdle and Wells had a quar-

rel in the saloon, after which the negro left. Shortly afterwards a shot was fired from across the street. The bullet passed through the wood of the frame of a screen door and struck McArdle squarely in the forehead. He died in half an hour.

A few minutes later Wells came up in the crowd which had collected and inquired what was the trouble. A spectator of the previous quarrel pointed him out to an officer, who arrested him on suspicion and put him in jail. Another spectator shortly afterwards identified him as the negro who had quarreled with McArdle and the report quickly spread that he was identified as the man who did the killing.

It was not until 2:55 that the mob appeared at the jail. Overpowering the marshal and night man it broke the locks to the jail, took the negro to a telephone pole at a corner of the city hall, where he was hanged.

It is reported that Wells, just before he was lynched, denied doing the shooting.

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## NEW YORK WORLD

December 7, 1899

## ROASTED ALIVE

MAYSVILLE, Ky., Dec. 6—Richard Coleman, a twenty-year-old colored boy was burned at the stake at noon today within the limits of this city, in the presence of thousands of men and hundreds of women and children.

Tortures almost unbelievable were inflicted upon the wretched negro. In all the vast crowd that witnessed the agonies of the man, not one hand was raised in humanity's behalf, nor a single voice heard in the interest of mercy. Instead, when some new torture was inflicted upon the shrieking, burning boy, the crowd cheered and cheered, the shrill voices of women and the piping tones of children sounding high above the roar of men.

Not one person in the crowd wore a mask. The leaders of the mob disdained the semblance of any disguise. Every act was done in the open. There was no secrecy. The population of the whole city and country for miles around, church men and church women, professional and



business men of eminence, people of distinguished ancestry, formed the mob, and not a single regret for the horrible tragedy can be heard to-night from one end of the town to the other.

Coleman was to have been tried here this morning for a crime peculiarly brutal. He had confessed to assaulting and barbarously murdering a beautiful young woman, the wife of his employer, James Lashbrook, a wealthy farmer. There was not a particle of doubt that he would have been executed according to law.

It was two months ago to-day, that Coleman killed Mrs. Lashbrook. He was taken to Covington and kept in jail there for safe-keeping. Had he been imprisoned here, he would have been lynched without delay. The authorities hoped that the public indignation would die out. Instead it ramified, hardened and became as fixed in the minds of thousands as any human determination could be.

For weeks members of the Lashbrook family had been silently on guard in Covington. They heard last night that Coleman was to be sent to Maysville. The news was telegraphed and spread everywhere. The Maysville jailer asked that the journey be delayed until this morning.

Sheriff Perrine started from Covington for Maysville with Coleman and several assistants on the 7:30 A. M. train. The World's correspondent accompanied them. Coleman begged to be allowed to remain in Covington. He knew what he had to expect. He told the Sheriff he would be horribly killed. Pleadingly he said he didn't want any trial; that he was willing to be hanged without a trial. He was so frightened he could not walk and had to be practically lifted into the patrol wagon which carried him to the station.

The members of the Lashbrook family telegraphed word of the coming and went on the same train. They kept in the background as much as possible, but rode in the smoker, where Coleman sat handcuffed to the Sheriff, and never took their eyes from him. They feared some trick by the authorities and were determined to track him to any hiding place that the Sheriff might have in view.

Coleman saw and recognized the Lashbrooks in the car and their quiet, determined manner paralyzed him with fear.

Deputy Sheriff Robinson tried to make him talk, but when asked questions he simply shook his head. Once asked his age, he said:

"Bout fourteen, I guess."

Robinson said:

"You told me twenty."

"Maybe I did; I don't know," was the reply.

Sheriff Perrine while en route was informed that a mob was awaiting the arrival of the train at the depot here and he hastily prepared for the swearing in of deputy sheriffs. As the train pulled slowly into the old station the mob formed on both sides.

Armed men stationed themselves at the platforms of all the cars and warned the frightened passengers to remain quiet and not to interfere. The sheriff and his assistants were strongly armed and there was some resistance as the leaders of the mob jostled roughly against them and demands were uttered from the outer fringes of the crowds for the prisoner.

Sheriff Perrine made a bold movement and started walking swiftly but with no indications of panic from the car. A step behind him followed the officers with Coleman seeking to conceal himself behind the forms of his protector.

As the officers proceeded the number of the mob were constantly swelled by new arrivals, and through the downtown business streets to the Court House they were closely followed.

Hundreds of stones and other missiles were thrown, and revolvers and rifles were freely displayed. The prisoner was frequently struck, and he presented a frightful appearance, blood streaming from wounds on his face and head.

At the Court-House a mob of 2,000 men headed by James Lashbrook, the husband, had been hastily formed. The demand for the prisoner was made, accompanied by threats from the leaders.

There was a brief struggle in which weapons were hastily drawn by the officers and then the Sheriff and his assistants were overcome by force of numbers and the prisoner was pulled from them.

Up through the main street of the town the mob marched, the prisoner being held by the vanguard and

dragged along with the aid of ropes loosely attached to his body. He was the target of hundreds of missiles and several times he sank half conscious to the ground while the crowd pressed forward striking at him with clubs, sticks and whips until his head and body were scarcely recognizable.

More dead than alive, he was dragged along and forced to his feet. Scores of women joined the men. High above the noise the wretch could be heard pleading for his life.

The place of execution had been selected weeks ago, in accordance with all the other arranged details of the programme mapped out by the leaders of the mob. The prisoner was dragged to the sapling and strapped against the tree, facing the husband of the victim.

Large quantities of dry brush and larger bits of wood were piled around him, and oil was poured on the mass while he was praying loudly for speedy death.

James Lashbrook, the husband of the victim, applied the first match to the brushwood. A brother of the victim struck the second match.

Some one with a knife slashed at the prisoner's chest. By a sort of cruel concurrence of action on the part of the mob not a single shot was fired.

The purpose seemed to be to give the wretch the greatest possible amount and duration of torture. The lower part of his clothing was torn away leaving him bare.

As the flames grew, Coleman's horror increased, and he struggled terribly to withdraw his limbs from the encroaching fire.

The shrieks of the burning negro nerved the crowd to greater deeds of horror. One man had in his hand the same pepper-box which Coleman had used to throw pepper in the eyes of Mrs. Lashbrook when he first attacked her.

This man had filled the box with cayenne pepper. He stepped close to the shrieking wretch, whose eyes were almost bursting from his head with pain and calmly threw the pepper into the eyes of the negro, again and again. The boy writhed and strained at the stout ropes, and his face became horribly distorted with the awfulness of the pain, but the man with the pepper-box kept on deliberately shaking more pepper into his victim's

eyes. At least twice, he stopped to press down the eyelids of the negro to make sure that the pepper did its work of agony.

Scores of men had pistols in their hands. The men who came in from the country had their trousers stuffed into their boots and the handles of revolvers projected outside their bootlegs. In an ecstasy of rage one countryman, a neighbor of Mrs. Lashbrook, pulled his revolver from his bootleg as if to shoot the negro. A dozen men pounced upon him and made him promise not to use the weapon. They did not want the negro to die that way. It would have been too quick.

Eager hands kept feeding the flames and soon the blazing mass reached the waist of the negro. The ropes which held the upper part of his body burned away and he toppled into the flames. Long poles were used to push him back and hold him in an upright position. Men burned themselves to catch him with their hands and hold him up, and the crowd cheered them again and again.

It was thought the negro was dead, but as he sank to a sitting position in the flames he cried out faintly:

"If you take the fire away, I want to say something. Oh! give me water!"

Those were the last words he uttered. The next minute he was probably dead, as his head fell forward on his chest.

But the crowd was not satisfied. They kept on feeding the flames. Lashbrook, the husband of the murdered woman, stood all the time directly in front of the burning negro and he did not leave until the body was almost completely incinerated.

Long after most of the mob went away little children from six to ten years of age carried dried grass and kindling wood and kept the fire burning all during the afternoon.

Relic-hunters visited the scene and carried away pieces of flesh and the negro's teeth. Others got pieces of fingers and toes and proudly exhibit the ghastly souvenirs to-night.

With tears in his eyes James Lashbrook said to The World correspondent this afternoon:

"I touched the match to the fire that sent Coleman to

his doom. I did as I thought right, and I will stand for all that may follow."

Judge Wadsworth said:

"I am a police Judge, but for once perhaps I forgot the duties of the office. Lashbrook has my sympathy. He left my office fifteen minutes before train time. We expected Coleman last night and we waited all night for him."

The Coroner held an inquest this evening, and rendered a verdict that Coleman came by his death at the hands of unknown persons.

What was left of the body had not been removed up to this evening and was still smouldering. All that was visible was the charred skull.

Several of the women who witnessed the burning said to The World correspondent to-night that they now feel as if they could walk the loneliest country road at midnight without being molested by a black man.

The crime for which Coleman was burned was an awful one. He murdered the woman who had befriended him.

Coleman was not only employed on the Lashbrook farm, but he had been installed as a house servant and was trusted implicitly by Mr. Lashbrook and his wife.

On the day of the murder Mr. Lashbrook was at work some distance from the house, of which Coleman was left in charge. Mrs. Lashbrook had driven to Maysville and returned, when Coleman asked her to enter the cabin to look at some work on which he had been engaged.

The negro locked the door on the inside. Mrs. Lashbrook became frightened and screamed. Coleman threw pepper in her eyes, struck her on the head and knocked her down, but did not stop her cries. He then seized a razor, cut her throat and assaulted her. He then left the room, but returning and hearing her groaning, he struck her repeatedly on the head with an axe until he was sure she was dead.

Without any show of alarm or remorse the negro washed the blood from his hands and clothing and went to where Mr. Lashbrook was at work in the field and told him that he had better come to the house, as some one had killed his wife. Mr. Lashbrook did not take the matter seriously until Coleman insisted that his wife was dead.

Even then, so great was the confidence of Mr. Lashbrook in Coleman that no thought occurred that he was the murderer. It was not until after the officers arrived that suspicion was directed against Coleman. Blood spots had been found on his clothing, but he accounted for them by saying that he had been killing chickens.

That night, however, at Mayaville, a partial confession was obtained, and knowing the result if the fact should become known, the officers quietly took him to Covington, Ky., for safekeeping.

Never before to-day was there a man burned alive by a mob in Kentucky.

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## **WASHINGTON TIMES**

February 18, 1900

### **NEGRO LYNCHED TO AVENGE ASSAULT ON WHITE WOMAN**

**COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 17**—Will Burts, a negro, nineteen years old, was lynched this morning in Aiken county. Three days ago he attempted to outrage Mrs. C. L. Weeks and failed.

A crowd of 250 tracked the negro fifty miles across Aiken, Edgefield, and Greenwood counties. He was caught last evening by a farmer, who received \$100 from the posse. The party returned to Greenwood, and at daylight this morning the lynching occurred. Some wished to hold the man till tonight and make a public demonstration of it, but this was outvoted.

A clothesline was obtained, one end swung over an oak limb, and the other fastened to Burts' neck. He was then ordered to climb the tree and get out on the limb. This the negro did without hesitation. He was then shot from the limb. The rope broke, and, as Burts was not dead, he was again hoisted up and then shot to pieces.

# **NEW ORLEANS TIMES-DEMOCRAT**

March 24, 1900

## **LYNCH NEGRO WHO TESTIFIED FOR ANOTHER NEGRO**

**RIPLEY, Tenn., March 28**—This morning, in the heart of the city, the body of a negro, Louis Rice, was found dangling from a limb of a tree. The lynching grew out of a trial in the Circuit Court of Lauderdale county, during the course of which Rice testified in favor of one of his color who was charged with the murder of a white man named Goodrich.

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## **NEW YORK TIMES**

June 11, 1900

## **AN INNOCENT MAN LYNCHED**

**NEW ORLEANS, June 10**—A mob willfully and knowingly hanged and burned an innocent man, as well as another who was probably innocent, near Mississippi City, Miss., between midnight and 1 o'clock this morning. The lynching was the result of impatience on the part of the people of Biloxi, a nearby town, over the failure of the officers of the law to produce the man who a week ago murdered Christina Winterstein, a schoolgirl who was returning to her home near Biloxi after attending the commencement exercises of her school.

The crime was an unusually atrocious one even for outrages of this nature, and naturally suspicion pointed to some unknown negro as the perpetrator. Many arrests were made, and two of the suspects, Askew and Russ, were placed in the Mississippi City jail for safe keeping. The proof against neither was more than remotely circumstantial. In the case of Askew the District Attorney made an examination and practically declared the man innocent.

The next night Askew was taken from the jail by a mob and tortured with fire to extort a confession. After

the terrible ordeal the mob virtually declared the man guiltless, as they returned him to jail.

Yesterday the District Attorney, at a public meeting at Biloxi, obtained a pledge from the citizens not to molest the prisoners if they were returned for examination. It is stated on good authority that he thought the men could prove their innocence, and the citizens were aware of his views. Some refused to pledge themselves, and yesterday afternoon it was openly asserted that it was out of the question to think of postponing the matter any longer, as the crime merited a lynching.

Last night a crowd went to the jail, secured Askew and Russ, hanged them, fired into the bodies, and then built a fire under them.

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## HOUSTON POST

June 11, 1900

### TWO BLACKS STRUNG UP; GRAVE DOUBT OF THEIR GUILT

BILOXI, Miss., June 10—Lynch law ran rampant in this section last night. Two negro men were lynched, possibly for one man's crime, early this morning at Mississippi City, and it is not absolutely certain that either victim of mob law was guilty. Henry Askew and Ed Russ, held as suspects, were taken out and strung up to a tree in a thicket, just behind the railway station at Mississippi City.

Attorney White had promised that they would be brought to trial on Monday and yesterday at a mass meeting held in this city urged the people to support the laws and see that justice was done through the proper legal channels.

Early last night Sheriff Ramsey, in order to protect Askew and Russ from mob violence, moved them to a bath house. After midnight the mob assembled near the bath house and afterward overpowered a deputy sheriff with whom the sheriff thought to protect his prisoners, and dragged the two negroes away. The crowd, which was supposed to know nothing of the negroes' hiding

place, did not stop at the jail, but went straight to the bath house. The negroes were tied back to back and swung up to the same tree. Their bodies were riddled with bullets, and after death ensued, were set on fire. The nauseating smell of the burning flesh could be smelt for miles around.

Sheriff Ramsey and Marshal Moseley saw the members of the mob, but it is stated "were unable to recognize them on account of the trees casting shadows on their faces."

About 100 men gathered near the scene of the crime, waiting for the appearance of the posse with their prisoners, but were disappointed. The mob was impatient and did its work when the first tree was reached.

On June 2 Christina Winterstein, a 18-year-old schoolgirl, was outraged and murdered about two miles from Biloxi while on her way home from school exercises. Askew and Russ, both of whom had been in the vicinity of the place where the outrage was committed that day, were charged with the crime.

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**SNEADS, Fla., June 10**—Ernest Hardwick, a white farmer, was set upon by a gang of negroes several days ago and beaten so badly that he died in a few hours. Only one of the negroes was caught and sent to jail. Two nights after the murder a mob went to the house of John Sanders, a supposed accessory to the crime, and shot him to death. Another negro, innocent of the murder, was also killed. Both bodies were literally shot to pieces.

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## BALTIMORE AMERICAN

July 24, 1900

## MILITIA ARRIVES TOO LATE

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala., July 23**—Elijah Clark, the negro who yeaterday assaulted Susan Priest, a thirteen-year-old girl, was taken from the jail in this city this evening and lynched near the spot where his crime was committed. His body was riddled with bullets. Sheriff Fulgham defended his prisoner to the last, but a dense smoke, from a combination of tar, feathers and oil, fired by the

crazed mob, was too much for him, and he was dragged from the jail and placed under a physician's care. William Vining, an employe of the street railway company, who attempted to rush through the crowd and up the jail steps to assist the sheriff was shot and dangerously wounded. A crowd of one hundred and fifty men, principally employes of the big cotton mills at Dallas, a suburb of this city searched the woods all night for Clark, who was identified at the time he assaulted Miss Priest by her little sister.

No success attended their efforts, and early this morning Sheriff Fulgham started out with a posse, and before nine o'clock had captured Clark on Beaverdam Creek, ten miles from Huntaville. He was soon landed in jail, and by one o'clock the news of the prisoner's capture was heralded to all parts of the city. A mob—composed of mill operatives and men of all callings—was soon formed and marched to the jail, where they stood for a time, apparently waiting for a leader. Sheriff Fulgham, quickly seeing that he had a desperate crowd to combat, wired Governor Johnson the facts in the case. The governor responded to the effect that he had ordered the militia at Birmingham, Montgomery and Decatur to proceed with all haste to the scene. The sheriff then telephoned Judge S. M. Stewart, and asked for an immediate trial of the negro, and the judge replied soon after that he had arranged for a special session of court at three o'clock before Judge H. C. Speake.

The mob by this time had assumed alarming proportions, and the sheriff, thinking to quiet the storm, appeared at a window and announced that a special trial had been arranged for the prisoner, and that he would be brought before the court at three o'clock in the afternoon. This was greeted with jeers by the crowd of citizens and the cry "Revenge!" went up.

The outer door to the jail, a wooden barrier, was soon battered down, and the mob gained entrance to the first floor. Here they encountered the sheriff's wife, who pleaded with them to refrain from violence, and let the law take its course. Sheriff Fulgham, however, on hearing the door being forced, retired with his prisoner to the third floor, where he locked himself in with Clark. A large amount of tar, feathers and oil was secured and

piled upon the cement floor of the jail, and a match applied. A suffocating smoke arose, and spread quickly throughout the jail. The sheriff again retreated to the corner farthest from the fire, taking his prisoner with him. More tar and feathers were brought in and ignited. Fulgham was finally dragged from the jail in a semi-conscious condition, and taken to the city hall, and doctors summoned.

The sheriff's departure was the signal for the mob to proceed to their work, and they quickly took complete possession of the stronghold. Fully an hour was consumed in breaking the lock to the cell in which the culprit was confined, but as soon as this was accomplished two men secured Clark and quickly appeared with him on the front steps of the jail. A plow line was placed around his neck, and guarded by twenty heavy-armed men in fours, he was dragged out of the jail yard. The mob was followed by fully 1,500 people. The doomed man was taken before his victim and positively identified. The identification complete, the wretch collapsed, and had to be taken up and borne on the shoulders of his captors. The rope around Clark's neck was thrown over the limb of an immense tree by Miss Priest's brother. The negro was thrown across the back of a horse and the animal was led out from under him. The body was riddled with bullets.

Just as the work was finished the Decatur militia arrived at Huntsville.

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## NEW YORK HERALD

July 24, 1900

### LYNCHED BEFORE TRIAL

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., July 23—Elijah Clark, a negro, twenty years old, was lynched at two o'clock this afternoon by an immense mob of citizens of Huntsville and the surrounding country. Clark was about to be removed from the Madison county jail to the court house for a preliminary hearing, when the mob compelled the officers to give him up, took him to the scene of his crime, hanged him and riddled the body with bullets.

## **NEW YORK WORLD**

December 30, 1900

## **HARVARD PROFESSOR FAVORS LEGALIZING LYNCHINGS**

DETROIT, Dec. 29—Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard College, speaking before the American Historical Association in convention here to-day, said that if the people of certain States are determined to burn colored men at the stake, those States would better legalize the practice.

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## **CHICAGO RECORD**

January 4, 1901

## **NEGRO FREED, THEN LYNCHED**

ROME, Ga., Jan. 3—George Reed, a negro charged with attempting to assault Mrs. J. M. Locklear of this city last night, was hanged to-day to a tree. His body was then riddled with bullets by a mob of 150 men. Reed protested his innocence.

After his arrest this morning the negro was taken before Mrs. Locklear, but she failed to identify him and he was returned to jail. However, the mob which had been seeking the prisoner's life was not satisfied. The demonstrations were so pronounced that Judge Henry of the Superior court, not seeing any reason for holding Reed, ordered the sheriff to release him. The mob learning of the release, formed within the city limits and marched to the house of Lila Gover in North Rome, where it found Reed. He was taken three miles from this place and lynched.

# CHICAGO RECORD

February 27, 1901

## HOOSIERS HANG NEGRO KILLER

**TERRE HAUTE**, Ind., Feb. 26—George Ward, the negro who murdered Miss Ida Finkelstein, the school teacher, last evening, was placed in jail at 11 o'clock this morning, and shortly before 1 o'clock was taken out by a mob, dragged face downward to the banks of the Wabash, only two squares away, at the wagon bridge at the foot of the main street of the city, thence to the draw, and hanged from a beam more dead than alive. Then his body was cut down and tumbled off the bridge on the west bank of the river and a fire built, on which he was burned. For two hours the crowd came and went in thousands, while a few hundred gathered close to the fire and renewed it as it died down with oil and crates from a near-by poultry house. The hat was passed around several times for money to buy oil. Some of the bridge weather-boarding was torn off for fuel. No effort was made by the authorities to stop the inhuman conduct, and so far as appearances went it was simply a big bonfire, watched idly by a great number of people.

When the crowd near the fire tired of renewing it after two hours, it was seen that the victim's feet were not burned. Some one called an offer of a dollar for one of the toes, and a boy quickly took out his knife and cut off a toe. The offer was followed by others, and the horrible traffic was continued, youths holding up toes and asking for bids.

Nothing has been done by the authorities as yet looking to the punishment of the lynchers. They were not disguised and there would be no difficulty in identifying them. Policemen stood on the river bank and watched the men and boys about the fire for an hour or more. Outside the jail a number of policemen tried to persuade the crowd to disperse, but when a man would not move on no further effort was made.

## **CHICAGO RECORD**

March 14, 1901

### **CORONER'S JURY COMMENDS MOB FOR CREMATING NEGRO**

CORSICANA, Tex., Mar. 15—John Henderson, the negro accused of murdering Mrs. Younger, was burned at the stake by a mob of 5,000 persons in this city to-day. He purportedly had confessed his guilt. Subsequently the coroner held an inquest over his remains and the jury returned a verdict commending the mob for its act of horror.

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## **NEW YORK TRIBUNE**

March 17, 1901

### **NEGRO SUSPECT ELUDES MOB; SISTER LYNCHED INSTEAD**

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Mar. 16—Ballie Crutchfield, a colored woman, met death at the hands of a mob at Rome about midnight last night. The mob surrounded her home and took her to a bridge over Round Lick Creek, near the town. Her hands were tied behind her, and after being shot through the head her lifeless body was thrown into the creek. The body was recovered to-day, and the jury of inquest returned a verdict that she met death at the hands of unknown persons.

The lynching was the result of a suspicion that the negress was in some way connected with the theft of the contents of a pocketbook containing \$120, which was lost by Walter Sampson last week. The purse was found on the ground by a negro boy, who was on his way to return it to the owner, when he was met by William Crutchfield, a brother of the dead woman, who induced the boy to give him the pocketbook upon the representation that the contents were of no value. Mr. Sampson had Crutchfield arrested, and he was taken to the house of Squire Bains for safe keeping.

That night a mob visited the house of Squire Bains and took Crutchfield from the custody of the Sheriff. The mob had started with Crutchfield to the place selected for execution, when he broke from them and succeeded in effecting his escape in the dark. This so enraged the mob that they suspected Crutchfield's sister Ballie of being implicated in the theft, and last night's work was the culmination of that suspicion.

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

May 12, 1901

### BELIEVES WRONG MAN LYNCHED

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 11—A negro supposed to be James Brown, accused of assaulting Miss Della Garrett of Springville, was shot and killed by a number of white men near Leeds, near here, to-day. The coroner is of the opinion that the wrong man has been killed.

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

June 20, 1901

### LYNCH TWO IN LOUISIANA

SHREVEPORT, La., June 19—Two of the negroes implicated in the murder of John Gray Foster were lynched by a mob at Benton to-night. One was Frank, commonly known as "Prophet" Smith, who, at the head of the "Church of God" movement in that section, was blamed as being responsible for the sentiment against the whites which led to the death of Foster. The other was F. D. McLand.

At 6 o'clock men began quietly to obtain horses and ride eastward, crossing the river there in twos and threes and ostensibly unarmed. They were all bound for Benton, and had a prearranged plan for meeting with a similar crowd from Bossier to form the lynching party.

The mob appeared before the Benton jail about 9 o'clock and made a demand on Sheriff Thompson for the

prisoners. That official at first maintained his attitude of the last few days, but was overpowered by the lynchers.

Having secured the prisoners, the mob went out on the Arkansas road about a mile and a half from the jail and strung them up. Both negroes made statements before they died denying that they had anything to do with the killing of Foster. While Smith died praying, McLand was silent as he was hanged.

There were about 200 armed men in the mob. The lynchers declare that the death of these negroes was necessary to the preservation of the lives of the white men in that section.

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

August 8, 1901

### NEGRO BURNED AT STAKE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 7—Uttering alternate curses and prayers and shrieking as the flames encircled his writhing body, John Pennington, a negro, died at the stake near Enterprise to-day, a victim of the vengeance of a mob of 500 whites.

Though the suffering wretch pleaded for mercy and frantically endeavored to break the chains that tightly bound him, not a trace of sympathy was shown on the faces that peered at him through the flames. Pennington had committed a brutal assault upon Mrs. J. C. Davis, the wife of one of the best known farmers of Coffee County and confessed his guilt.

The attack was made yesterday when Mrs. Davis, who was alone at home, was in her garden. Leaving his victim unconscious, the negro fled into the woods about the place. As soon as she regained her senses Mrs. Davis crawled to the house and gave the alarm.

A large posse was quickly organized with bloodhounds and the negro was chased until early this morning, when he was captured in a swamp. Pennington was bound hand and foot and taken back to the Davis home for identification.

Mrs. Davis immediately recognized him, and the negro broke down and wept. He admitted the crime and pleaded

for mercy, but deaf to his cries of terror, the leader dragged the trembling man from the house.

Several members of the crowd had already driven an iron pipe into the ground, and as the men approached with Pennington both whites and blacks were piling brushwood around the stake.

The negro saw his doom and with a scream of terror, fell to the ground in a faint. He was quickly revived and dragged to the stake, while the crowd stood silent. The frightened man was limp and had to be held up while the chains were fastened around his neck and body.

When all was ready the cry was given and the crowd stood back. A match was applied to the pile and, with oil to feed upon the tiny flame soon burst into a roaring fire. The terrified negro again pleaded for mercy in the most agonizing tones and prayed that those around him might perish. He then called upon the Maker for forgiveness, and as the flames leaped up and encircled his neck an unearthly shriek was heard and the man's eyes had almost bulged out of the sockets.

By this time the fire had gained such headway that nothing could be seen excepting a wriggling motion in the center of the circle of fire. A deathly silence followed and in a few minutes the flames had subsided sufficiently to disclose Pennington's head, fallen forward and hanging limp over the iron chain.

The body was quickly consumed, after which the crowd quietly dispersed.

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

August 20, 1901

### SHOOTING AT LYNCHED BLACK, MOB KILLS BOY BYSTANDER

PIERCE CITY, Mo., Aug. 19—Eugene Carter and another negro named Godley were taken from jail to-night and lynched on the charge of assaulting and murdering Miss Caaselle Wilds on her way home from Sunday school yesterday. When Godley was strung up there was much shooting at the body and a boy was killed and several persons wounded by the indiscriminate firing.

Just before his death Carter confessed that the real culprit was Joe Clark, a Pullman car porter, and the mob has arranged to meet him when he returns from his run and lynch him.

The feeling against the negroes is intense and twenty-five armed men are now raiding the colored quarter, shooting at every black they can find.

The murder of Miss Wilds was most atrocious. She was met near a railroad bridge, dragged into the woods, assaulted and her throat cut with a razor. A farmer working in a near by field witnessed the assault, but hearing no outcry did not go to her relief. When he saw the negroes running away he gave the alarm. The body of the girl was found at noon to-day, and the negroes were captured shortly afterward.

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

August 21, 1901

### PIERCE CITY MOB DRIVES NEGROES OUT, BURNS HOMES

PIERCE CITY, Mo., Aug. 20—With the exception of a few car porters, who are known to be respectable, there is not a negro in this town. For fifteen hours an armed and furious mob coursed through the streets chasing away every negro. The homes of five negroes were burned, and in one of them Peter Hampton, aged 71 and feeble, was cremated, as he was unable to escape.

Beginning Sunday afternoon, when the mangled remains of Miss Gazelle Wild were discovered in a ravine, where she had been murdered while struggling with a negro assailant, this community has been in a terrible fever. Yesterday Will Godley, a suspect, was arrested and last night he was lynched. His grandfather, French Godley was shot to death. Eugene Carter, alias Barrett, also a suspect, was strung up until he confessed, and may die of his injuries. A boy was fatally injured by a stray bullet during the raid upon the negro quarters last night, and the mob is thirsting to get its hands upon two other negroes suspected of complicity in the murder. If caught they will surely be lynched.

After the lynching of Godley last night it was thought the excitement would die down, but instead it became more intense, inasmuch as the impression grew that Godley was not the real culprit. Early this morning the mob broke into the arsenal of the local militia company, secured the rifles and ammunition and started out to clear Pierce City of all negroes. The work was thoroughly done. The terrified blacks, bullets whistling about their ears and in some instances finding lodgment in their bodies, fled to the woods and near-by towns, where they are being hidden by friends.

This afternoon partial quiet was restored, but this fact is due to the lack of negroes to shoot upon. Citizens, mindful of several hideous crimes against women hereabouts in recent years, have decreed that no negro can hereafter live in Pierce City or pass through the place on pain of death. This may necessitate a complete change in the car porter system of four railroads centering near here.

New elements in the murder of Miss Wild developed to-day. It appears she started home from church alone, her brother lingering behind. About one mile from town the brother found her with her throat cut, lying lifeless near a culvert, under which her assailant had attempted to drag her. Evidence of a terrible struggle was shown.

A copper-colored negro was seen sitting on the bridge a short time before the tragedy occurred. It is supposed that the negro sprang upon her when she was passing and attempted to force her beneath the bridge. She fought with such desperation that he could not accomplish his purpose and cut her throat in the struggle. Her body was not violated.

Monday bloodhounds were taken to the scene and the girl's bloody handkerchief was laid before them. They immediately caught the trail and ran at full speed to the home of Joe Lark, where on being admitted rushed into his bedroom and sprang upon the bed. It is believed that the man under arrest at Tulsa, I. T., who boarded with Lark, the Springfield suspect, slept upon this bed.

## **CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD**

October 9, 1901

### **MOB SCARES WOMAN TO DEATH**

**SHELBYVILLE, Ky., Oct. 8—**Mrs. Ben C. Perkins, wife of the jailer at this place, died to-day as the result of shock and fright suffered Wednesday morning when a mob attacked the jail and lynched two negroes. At that time Mrs. Perkins was ill with a nervous attack, and Dr. W. F. Baird, her physician, declares that the raid of the lynchers is responsible for the woman's death.

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## **CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD**

March 31, 1902

### **LYNCH MOB MAY HAVE ERRED**

**SAVANNAH, Ga., Mar. 30—**It is possible that in the search for Richard Young, the negro wanted for the murder of Dower Fountain in the southern part of this county, a negro now unknown has been caught by a posse and burned in error.

A bright bonfire was seen in the swamp in the direction a posse went Friday night and the members of the posse returned stating that they were satisfied with the night's work. It now develops, however, that their victim may not have been Richard Young, for whom the officers of the law are still searching.

The remains of the burned negro were brought before the mother of Richard Young who says that they resemble her son in no particular.

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## **CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD**

April 2, 1902

### **MOB VICTIM PLEADS INNOCENCE; PRAYS CULPRIT WILL BE FOUND**

**ROME, Ga., April 1—**Walter Allen, a negro, charged with assaulting Miss Blossom Adamson, a 15-year-old

girl, in this city yesterday afternoon, was taken from the jail to-night by 4,000 persons, who battered down the prison doors and hanged him to an electric light pole in the principal portion of the city. A volley was fired afterward, and fully a thousand bullets entered the negro's body.

The sheriff tried to save Allen from the mob and refused to deliver the keys, but the crowd forced the jail door with sledge hammers. Allen was allowed to make a statement, in which he declared that he was innocent and prayed that the guilty party would be found.

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

May 28, 1902

### NEGRO TORTURED TO DEATH BY MOB OF 4,000

LANSING, Tex., May 22—Dudley Morgan, a negro accused of assaulting Mrs. McKay, wife of a Section Foreman McKay, was burned to death at an iron stake here to-day. A crowd of 4,000 men, most of whom were armed, snatched him from the officers on the arrival of the train.

Morgan was taken to a large field on the edge of town. An iron stake was driven into the ground and to this he was bound until he could only move his head. Heaps of inflammable material was then piled about him and he was given a few moments for prayer.

It was 12:12 when all arrangements were completed. The crowd by this time numbered at least 5,000. The husband of the woman Morgan was accused of abusing applied the match and the pyre was soon ablaze. Then began the torture of the negro. Burning pieces of pine were thrust into his eyes. Then burning timbers were held to his neck, and after his clothes were burned off to other parts of his body. He was tortured in a horrible manner. The crowd clamored continuously for a slow death. The negro, writhing and groaning at the stake, begged pitifully to be shot. Mrs. McKay was brought to the field in a carriage with four other women, and an unsuccessful effort was made to get her near enough to see the mob's victim.

The negro's head finally dropped, and in thirty minutes only the trunk of the body remained. As the fire died down relic hunters started their search for souvenirs. Parts of the skull and body were carried away.

The men who captured Morgan were then held above the heads of the mob while their pictures were taken.

The last words of the doomed man other than the incoherent mutterings made in prayer were:

"Tell my wife good-by."

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## CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

September 29, 1902

### BURN A NEGRO BY SYSTEM

CORINTH, Miss., Sept. 28—In the most methodical and deliberate manner possible Corinth devoted Sunday afternoon to burning a negro to death. Even the victim, Tom Clark, seemed to enter into the spirit of the affair and walked unhesitatingly to the stake where he was to meet death. Eying the pile of fuel critically he said:

"I am guilty. I am a miserable wretch. I deserve the punishment that is about to be inflicted on me."

Five minutes later Clark was dead.

The execution was carried out in accordance with a revised plan which involved a strange mockery of mercy. Clark had confessed on Saturday, and it was decided to hang him to a telegraph pole on that afternoon. Clark, however, asked that the execution be delayed until today so that he could have a farewell interview with his mother and brother, who live in Memphis. The request was granted, much to the dismay of the newspaper correspondents who had bulletined the city papers that the execution was sure to take place that afternoon.

Meanwhile the news of the negro's arrest and confession spread rapidly over the surrounding country and today's incoming trains brought hundreds of people into the city to witness the execution.

At noon today it was found that the negro's relatives could not be located, and then, as if to make the execution as spectacular as possible for the benefit of the visitors, it

was decided to burn Clark. The main street of the town was ordered cleared, and it was announced that it had been decided to burn the negro at 8:30 o'clock. This statement was met with cheers and the crowd shifted to the place selected for the enactment of the tragedy.

The committee of twelve and many of the representative citizens of Corinth vigorously opposed burning the negro and argued that he should be hanged. J. B. Henning of Birmingham, Ala., brother of Mrs. Whitfield, would not consent to this proposition and insisted that Clark should be burned.

At 8 o'clock pine faggots and larger pieces of wood were laid about an iron rod, which was driven deep into the ground; and half an hour later it was announced that "all was in readiness."

At 8 o'clock the prisoner, heavily manacled, was taken from the jail by a posse of armed men and led to the east gate of the negro cemetery, in the western part of the city.

Clark made a statement, saying he deserved his fate, then asked that a letter be delivered to his mother and brother. He appealed to his brother to raise his children properly, admonishing them to beware of evil company.

The word was given to fire the funeral pile. The husband and brother of Clark's victim stepped forward. They applied torches, and in a moment the flames leaped upward, enveloping the negro in smoke and fire. Soon the man's head fell forward and life became extinct. The flames were fed by the crowd until the body was burned to a crisp. Then the executioners and the crowd dispersed.

The crime for which Clark was executed was the murder of Mrs. Carey Whitfield on Aug. 10 last. Mrs. Whitfield, the wife of a well known citizen, was found dead in her home, her head practically severed from her body.

Diligent search failed to disclose the murderers. Two Chicago detectives were employed, but their efforts were fruitless. Several suspects were arrested, but in each case an alibi was proven.

Finally a committee of twelve citizens were named to continue the search for the murderer. Last Monday it became known that Clark had quarreled with his wife and she threatened to disclose the secret of a crime. Members of the committee visited the woman and she told enough

to warrant belief that Clark had murdered Mrs. Whitfield.

Clark was arrested and yesterday was taken before the committee of twelve. To the surprise of all the negro confessed to the murder and also told of other crimes he had committed.

He stated that several years ago he stole \$1,500 from a physician at French Camp, Miss.

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## NEW YORK TIMES

April 27, 1908

### TWO WHITE GIRLS WHIPPED

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Apr. 26—Thirty-eight unmasked men broke into a house here early to-day and whipped Misses Rebecca and Ida Stephens, white, aged thirteen and sixteen years, and also whipped Joe Shively, a negro, aged fifty years. The Stephens girls live with their mother. Shively has a room in the house. The negro was whipped with a barbed wire and was hit in the eye with brass knuckles. The older girl was whipped with barbed wire and the younger one with apple switches but neither is dangerously injured.

Many of the assailants were recognized, and warrants will be sworn out for their arrest. Motive for the whipping appears to be local objection to a colored boarder living with a white family.

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## NEW YORK HERALD

June 8, 1908

### NEGRO DRAGGED FROM CELL AND TORTURED TO DEATH

BELLEVILLE, Ill., Sunday—With the dawn of Sunday the full import of a wild night's work done by a mob of fully two thousand citizens stood revealed to-day. David Wyatt, a negro schoolteacher, who made an attempt to assassinate Charles Hertel, County Superintendent, in his

office last evening, had been taken from a supposedly impregnable jail, hanged to a telegraph pole in the centre of the public square and his body burned.

Two hundred men, armed with sledge hammers, marched up to the jail in the night and attacked the rear doors with vigor. In half an hour the doors gave way to repeated hammer blows. Wyatt was confined in the lower section of a double tier of cells. The chilled steel bars were cut away with chisels, and when the door swung open a mighty shout informed the waiting crowd that the negro was in the hands of his pursuers.

Wyatt was six feet three inches tall and of powerful build. He tried to defend himself but he was doomed to quick death. His head was mashed almost to a pulp before he was dragged out of the cell.

A rope was placed about his neck and the dying negro was dragged down stairs and into the street. Hundreds of men jumped upon him and literally kicked and tore the bleeding form to shreds. Two men climbed the telegraph pole. Willing hands tossed up the loose end of the rope and the battered body of the negro quickly swung free in the air. Yelling like mad men, the mob surged around the victim. Knives were drawn and the body was slashed right and left.

Volunteer runners appeared with cans of benzine and gasolene. Signs and pickets from neighboring fences were tossed into a pyre and flames shooting as high as the improvised gallows soon enveloped the negro.

All this was done while the mob knew that the negro's victim was alive and had a fair chance to recover. The excuse given is that the lawless element among the negroes has been doing all sorts of deviltry, and that it was determined to teach the negroes a wholesome lesson.

Wyatt's crime was provoked by the refusal of Superintendent Hertel to renew his teaching certificate. The negro demanded favorable action, and on its refusal fired one shot at the superintendent while he was sitting at his desk.

# NEW YORK HERALD

June 9, 1903

## BELLEVILLE IS COMPLACENT OVER HORRIBLE LYNCHING

**BELLEVILLE, Ill.**, Monday—Although the men who lynched David S. Wyatt; the negro teacher who shot Charles Hertel, County Superintendent of Schools, on Saturday night, worked without masks for six hours, in view of hundreds, including all the city and county officials, and although the few men who did the actual killing are known to scores, it is unlikely their prosecutions will follow.

State Attorney Farmer said to-day he had not been able to find anybody who would identify any of the lynchers.

At the inquest to-day no testimony which would tend to implicate any one in the lynching could be elicited from the witnesses examined. The Coroner's jury declined to wait for the arrival of all the witnesses, and after hearing ten men, including Mayor Kern, a verdict that Wyatt met his death at the hands of parties unknown was returned.

In the main, Belleville views the lynching and its attendant horrors with complacency. There were strong expressions of condemnation in all the churches yesterday, but many who are accounted leading citizens express approval of the lynching. The men who took part in the disorder believe they are safe.

Those who condemn the lynching urge that it could easily have been prevented. Not more than fifteen men did the actual work of breaking into the jail and lynching the negro. No attempt was made to defend the jail. Not a shot was fired. The authorities took no stand.

Mayor Kern is understood to have given orders that no shots be fired. State Attorney Farmer resented the suggestion that the mob could have been dispersed by the use of firearms.

It is doubtful if a lynching has ever been attended by such remarkable circumstances. The lynchers did not constitute a real mob. The mob spirit was entirely lack-

ing. The attack on the jail was made by a comparatively small number of men, predisposed to disorder, who seized upon the opportunity which public indignation gave them to indulge their penchant for violence without incurring the usual risk. Actively aiding them was a somewhat larger number of youths. The rest of the crowd was made up of men of respectability, well dressed women—many leaning on the arms of escorts—and boys and girls.

The sentiment of the crowd was as remarkable as its composition. It was as if all had turned out for a frolic. They had gathered for a spectacle, and they made merry over the prospect. Loud laughter greeted jokes with violent death as their theme. Demands for blood were cheered. Women were in front of the jail with baby carriages.

Mayor Kern, State's Attorney Farmer and former Judge Schaefer consulted and agreed that to oppose the crowd with force would not be good policy.

A suggestion was made that the fire department turn water on the crowd. Mayor Kern opposed this on the ground that it would make the people angry. Somebody rang the fire bell, however, and a hose cart dashed down the street through the crowd, reeling off hose by way of polite intimation of what it was proposed to do. The crowd calmly separated the hose into sections of convenient length and tied these into knots. The firemen went back to their house with all the hose the crowd would let them have.

For an hour and a half after the assailants got inside the jail the sounds of heavy blows were heard through the windows, which had been shattered by boys. Youths appeared frequently at the windows and shouted information meant to be humorous. The crowd was none too exacting as to the quality of humor offered and each sally about the progress made toward "the nigger" was greeted with cheers and laughter.

It was twenty minutes to twelve o'clock when the self-appointed announcers rushed to the windows and shouted gleefully, "We've got him!"

"They're taking him to the square," somebody shouted a few minutes later, and the well dressed throng moved, with many a jest, toward the square to see "the big show."

# NEW YORK TRIBUNE

February 29, 1904

## BOOKER T. WASHINGTON LETTER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 28—"The Age Herald" tomorrow will publish the following letter from Booker T. Washington:

"Within the last fortnight three members of my race have been burned at the stake; of these one was a woman. Not one of the three was charged with any crime even remotely connected with the abuse of a white woman. In every case murder was the sole accusation. All of these burnings took place in broad daylight, and two of them occurred on Sunday afternoon, in sight of a Christian church.

"In the midst of the nation's busy and prosperous life, few, I fear, take time to consider whither these brutal and inhuman practices are leading. The custom of burning human beings has become so common as scarcely to excite interest or attract unusual attention. I have always been among those who condemn in the strongest terms crimes of whatsoever character committed by members of my race, and I condemn them now with equal severity, but I maintain that the only protection of our civilization is a fair and calm trial of all people charged with crime and in their legal punishment, if proved guilty. There is no shadow of excuse for deviation from legal methods in the cases of individuals accused of murder. The laws are, as a rule, made by the white people, and their execution is by the hands of the white people; so that there is little probability of any guilty colored man escaping.

These burnings without trial are in the deepest sense unjust to my race. But it is not this injustice alone which stirs my heart. These barbarous scenes are more disgraceful and degrading to the people who inflict the punishment than to those who receive it. If the law is disregarded when a negro is concerned, it will soon be disregarded when a white man is concerned, and, besides, the rule of the mob destroys the friendly relations which should exist between the races, and injures and inter-

fers with the material prosperity of the communities concerned.

Worst of all, these outrages take place in communities where there are Christian churches; in the midst of people who have their Sunday schools, their Christian Endeavor societies and Young Men's Christian Associations; where collections are taken up for sending missionaries to Africa and China and the rest of the so-called heathen world. Is it not possible for pulpit and press to speak out against these burnings in a manner that shall arouse a public sentiment that will compel the mob to cease insulting our courts, our Governors and our legal authority; to cease bringing shame and ridicule upon our Christian civilization?"

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## NEW YORK HERALD

March 9, 1904

## NEGRO HATERS FIRE TOWN

**SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, Wednesday**—As a result of the murder of a white policeman and the subsequent lynching of Richard Dickerson, a negro, a serious race war is on to-night.

One entire square in the levee district inhabited by negroes is in flames and seven companies of the Ohio National Guard are on the scene, holding a crowd of five thousand excited people in check.

All yesterday mutterings were heard by the negroes, who, in their determination to revenge the lynching of Dickerson, threatened to kill all the policemen in the city. On the other hand the whites openly announced that they would burn the district during the night.

Alarmed by preparation for hostilities Mayor C. J. Bowlus, Sheriff Rutzahn and several prominent citizens called on Governor Herrick for troops. The Governor quickly responded and five companies were ordered to assist the two local companies in preserving peace.

In the mean time crowds gathered in the street, and at night fall five hundred young men organized at the post office and started for the levee, shouting, "Burn the niggers."

Each man was armed with a rifle or shot gun and firing at random or command.

By half-past nine o'clock a crowd of about two thousand men had assembled along the Big Four railroad tracks, almost blockading Washington street. Two hundred negroes were clustered together just west of Fountain avenue, in the levee district near the place called "Honky Tonk."

The negroes were unusually quiet and seemed to be waiting for a start to be made by the white men. The other crowd was boisterous and there were frequent yells and several pistol shots heard, although no one has been reported injured so far.

Mayor Bowlius, Sheriff Routzahn, and the other officials were stationed in the Mayor's office. It was announced by the Mayor that the militia was coming as quickly as the cars could bring them.

No effort was made to use Company A, Ninth Battalion, composed of negroes, because of fear of race prejudice.

At midnight the crowd, realizing that the troops were about to arrive, applied a torch to the saloon occupied by "Les" Thomas.

Preceding the firing of the building the mob, at a distance of a hundred feet, shot at the front of the building for half an hour, but it is not known whether any of the occupants had remained in the building, and if they did whether any fatalities resulted from the shooting.

The fire spread both ways from Thomas' place and the mob would not tolerate any effort of the department to put out the fire in the levee district, but offered no resistance in the attempts to confine the fire to the buildings along Washington street, known as the levee. These buildings are dilapidated frame structures, ranging from one to three stories in height. They are for the most part saloons, dwelling and small rooming houses of negroes.

The militia had not yet arrived in sufficient numbers to attempt to quell the mob.

At midnight one whole square was in flames. The militia had been re-inforced by the Urbana company and a crowd of five thousand, under military check, were viewing the destruction of the levee resorts with great satis-

faction. Half a block away cheers were heard as the buildings fell in.

While the eastern portion of the levee is doomed it is thought that the department will be able to confine the conflagration to the region east of Spring street.

Members of the mob openly declare that when their work in the eastern levee district is completed they will transfer their efforts to that portion west of the Big Four station and the Arcade Hotel. This portion of West Washington street is also known as the levee and the buildings are similar to those in the eastern portion.

The arrival of the additional militia alone can save these places, and a trainload of troops from several towns between here and Cincinnati are anxiously awaited. Apparently the negroes all over the city are becoming intimidated and their boasts made earlier in the evening are no longer heard.

The Coroner held an inquest to-day over the body of Dickerson, but none was blamed for the lynching, which took place in the centre of the city last night before a mob of two thousand persons. The Coroner rendered this verdict:—

"After having heard the evidence and examined the body I find that the deceased came to his death at the hands of a mob which forcibly broke into the county jail, overpowering the authorities, and lynched the said Richard Dickerson. I am unable to determine the direct cause of death, but found him hanging by the neck to a pole at the southeast corner of Main street and Fountain avenue, in Springfield, with a number of bullet holes in his body. I have been creditably informed that he was placed there about a quarter after eleven o'clock P. M., March 7, 1904. I am unable to fix the responsibility for his death."

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## NEW YORK SUN

March 22, 1904

### CONFEDERATE VETERANS DEPLORE LYNCHING EXCEPT FOR RAPE

NEW ORLEANS, March 21—The Confederate veterans of Mississippi are determined to give their assistance to

try to stop lynching by burning. The W. R. Barksdale Camp of Confederate Veterans of Mississippi has adopted resolutions calling for the strict enforcement of law and order and denouncing mob violence as antagonistic to liberty and leading ultimately to anarchy, desolation and ruin. The resolutions say:

"As Confederate veterans and law abiding citizens of Mississippi and of the United States we are violently, vehemently and eternally opposed to the practice of burning a human being for any crime whatsoever. We appeal to all Confederate veterans, their wives and daughters, and to that great and glorious organization the Daughters of the Confederacy, one and all, to arise in their might and by precept and example, voice and pen, moral force and influence, help put a stop to this diabolical barbaric, unlawful, inhuman and ungodly crime of burning human beings. We are unalterably opposed to the lynching of a human being, except perhaps for the one unmentionable crime."

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## **NEW YORK TRIBUNE**

March 18, 1906

### **IS LYNCHED BY "ORDERLY" MOB; SUSPECTED OF COW KILLING**

**PLANQUEMINES, La., March 17—**William Carr, Negro, was lynched without ceremony here today by an orderly party of thirty masked men who hurried him to a railroad trestle and hanged him. He had been accused of killing a white man's cow.

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## **NEW YORK TRIBUNE**

March 20, 1906

### **LYNCHED AFTER RECEIVING SUPREME COURT REPRIEVE**

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Mar. 19—**A message from Chattanooga to "The Journal and Tribune" says that Ed

Johnson, the negro convicted of rape, in whose case the United States Supreme Court granted an appeal to-day, was removed from jail at 11 o'clock tonight and lynched.

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## CHICAGO TRIBUNE

March 26, 1910

### INTER-RACIAL COUPLE'S 'CONDUCT' RESULTS IN LYNCHING OF MAN

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Mar. 25—Resenting alleged improper conduct on the part of Judge Jones, a Negro, and a young white woman, a mob of forty men gathered at the county jail here tonight, overpowered the jailer and his deputies and hanged the Negro.

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## NEW YORK PRESS

March 26, 1904

### 9 LYNCHINGS IN ONE WEEK

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Mar. 25—A special from Dewitt says five negroes have been taken from the guards at St. Charles, this county, and shot to death by a mob.

This makes nine negroes who have been killed in the last week in the vicinity of St. Charles on account of race troubles.

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## MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

August 1, 1910

### 15 NEGROES ARE SHOT DOWN

PALESTINE, Tex., July 31—At least fifteen and perhaps as many as twenty negroes, all of them probably unarmed, were hunted down and killed by a mob of 200 or 300 men in the Slocum and Denison Springs neighborhood of Palestine last night and yesterday. Sheriff Black said today that the negroes were killed "without any real cause at all."

After returning from a 24-hour investigation in the Southeastern part of Anderson County, Sheriff Black made the following statement this morning:

"Strong race feeling prevails in that part of the county. Men were going about and killing negroes as fast as they could find them, and so far as I have been able to ascertain, without any real cause at all. These negroes had never done anything that I could discover. There was just a hot-headed gang hunting them down and killing them."

"We found eleven dead bodies, but from what I have heard the dead must number fifteen or twenty. We came across four bodies in one house. We won't know the final number killed until the locations of all bodies are revealed to us by the buzzards."

"I don't know how many there were in the mob, but I think there must have been two or three hundred. A misunderstanding over a promissory note is said to have been the cause of the trouble."

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## EDITORIAL FROM THE LITERARY DIGEST (NEW YORK)

August 18, 1910

### THE PALESTINE HORROR

We wish to publish, without comment, segments of editorials from two Southern newspapers on the recent outbreak of lynchings near Palestine, Texas. The first is from the *Houston Chronicle* which cries out against "in-discriminate butchery of negroes because of some crime committed by an individual member of the race" and says:

"It would puzzle Satan to find a satisfactory excuse for such an outbreak . . . With all the faults of the individuals, the negro race is not a bad race. Fidelity, loyalty, and courage are not uncommon traits. And the negro is the satellite of the white man. You could not drive him away from the white man, in whose shadow he flourishes, and the white race is not yet ready to dispense with the negro; certainly it can not afford to dispense with him by the assassination route, and to shoot down

unarmed negroes in their cabins, to kill poor barefooted fugitives who, with their clothes bundled up to flee the country, are overtaken on country roads and shot down and left to welter and to thrash out their lives in the white dust of the roadway (as happened near Palestine) is nothing short of hell-inspired murder, and is just as demoniac, just as bloody, just as damnable a crime as if it had been committed by Turks on Armenians, by Kurds and Caucasians, or by red Sioux warriors on white men."

The second is merely a clause from an editorial in the Memphis *Commercial Appeal* which advises northerners to "remember their own troubles, and not be too severe in the condemnation of the Texas tragedy."

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## BIRMINGHAM NEWS

August 4, 1910

### NEGROES FLEEING FOR LIVES

PENSACOLA, Fla., Aug. 1—Telephone wires to the vicinity of Dady, Fla., were cut to-night and negroes were reported to be fleeing for their lives from that section.

Business was reported suspended late to-day while farmers left their fields to join posses bent on carrying forward vengeance for the murder of the little school girl, Bessie Morrison, who was slain last Friday.

To-day it was reported that a negro had loaned an amulet for good luck to one of the colored men alleged to have slain the child. This negro, whose name has not been learned here, was captured, a rope placed around his neck and as he swung from the limb of a tree, his body was shot almost to pieces.

According to information here he is the fourth negro lynched for this murder. The cutting of the telephone wires made it impossible to learn the cause of the hunt for negroes said to be in progress to-night.